

from his home and sentenced 45 days with an iron leg chain for his live-streaming of protests and investigative reporting;

Whereas the Turkish Journalists' Association reported that—

(1) in 2020—

(A) 1 out of every 4 Turkish journalists was subjected to physical violence;

(B) 1 out of every 2 Turkish journalists were threatened; and

(C) 1 out of every 5 Turkish journalists faced trial (often on fabricated terrorism charges); and

(2) Turkey is maintaining its standing as—

(A) 1 of the world's most oppressive environments for press freedom; and

(B) 1 of the world's leading jailers of journalists;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela continues to target independent media outlets, attacking freedom of expression and severely limiting Venezuelan access to accurate information with at least 7 different media outlets targeted in 2021, including an incident in January 2021 where government officials entered the studio of the independent news station Venezolanos por la Información in Caracas without a warrant, seized their work equipment, and threatened the journalists with arrest if they continued to report;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas the freedom of the press—

(1) is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

(2) enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies, democratic governance, and contributes to an informed civil society, and government accountability;

(B) helps expose corruption, and enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(C) disseminates information essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) expresses concerns about threats to press freedom and freedom of expression around the world;

(3) recognizes and commends journalism's role in providing trusted, accurate, and timely information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(4) is dismayed that, under cover of the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments have restricted the work of journalists reporting on the public health crisis and on peaceful protests on a variety of issues;

(5) pays tribute to journalists who made tremendous sacrifices, including the loss of their lives, in the pursuit of truth and justice;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(7) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all imprisoned journalists;

(8) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(9) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to promote the respect and protection of freedom of the press around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 242—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 4, 2021, AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY” AND JUNE 2021 AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 242

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than—

(1) 38,500 individuals are killed and 85,000 individuals are wounded by gunfire;

(2) 14,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving guns;

(3) 23,000 individuals die by suicide using a gun; and

(4) 480 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas 2020 was one of the deadliest years on record for the United States, with an estimated 19,300 individuals killed in gun homicides or non-suicide-related shootings, a 25 percent increase over 2019;

Whereas unintentional shooting deaths by children increased by nearly ½, comparing incidents in March to December of 2020 to the same months in 2019;

Whereas, by 1 count, in 2020 in the United States, there were 610 mass shooting incidents in which at least 4 individuals were killed or wounded by gunfire;

Whereas, every year in the United States, more than 3,000 children and teens are killed by gun violence and 15,000 children and teens are shot and wounded;

Whereas approximately 8,800 individuals in the United States under the age of 25 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago, Illinois, while standing in a park;

Whereas, on June 4, 2021, to recognize the 24th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born June 2, 1997), individuals across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to—

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas June 2021 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of “National Gun Violence Awareness Day”, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on “National Gun Violence Awareness Day”;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 243—DESIGNATING MAY 2021 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 243

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately ⅓ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2020, there were more than 55,659,365 individuals who were 65 years of age or older in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.9 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic over 449,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older have died due to COVID-19. Additionally over 183,000 residents and workers in long-term care facilities have succumbed to the virus;

Whereas approximately 10,800 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2020, more than 9,015,549 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,851,164 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, in 2020, an estimated 6,317,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;